



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2022

TO: Chief Judges
Court Administrators

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd, State Court Administrator

SUBJECT: Juneteenth Holiday Implementation

I apologize for the very short notice your court received regarding the [court rule changes](#) that added Juneteenth to the list of holidays detailed in the Chief Judge Rule. As a former district judge, I know that such issues affecting personnel policy and relations with funding units are difficult to address and not quickly resolved. At the same time, I believe strongly that the difficulty is outweighed by the positive impact of this change. Courts statewide must speak with one voice regarding our commitment to equality and fair treatment.

In an interview yesterday, Chief Justice McCormack said:

“The state judiciary must be a leader on this issue because courts and our entire justice system have a disproportionate impact on people of color. We cannot undo the wrongs of the past, but celebrating Juneteenth is a symbol of our commitment to getting it right in the future.”

The Chief Justice’s statement is important because her words make clear that work remains to be done when it comes to equal justice. Memorializing Juneteenth as a court holiday is a step forward that signals to the public complacency is not acceptable and that the best way to achieve equality is through shared effort.

The Court began thinking about Juneteenth in June of 2021, when the day was recognized as a federal holiday. They decided to publish the proposal for comment last October and received public input at the administrative hearing on May 18. Ideally, courts would have gotten more notice, but the Court moved as quickly as it could. They are certainly aware of the challenges you face but felt that this action was too important to wait.

I appreciate your work to quickly implement the Court’s order. If you continue to have concerns, I urge you to raise them with me directly or with your regional administrator.